(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A part of the command of Mahanadi has been covered under Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project which has been sanctioned during the VIII Plan. The activities under the project include rehabilitation and modernisation of existing projects, improving system deficiencies by on farm development works, linking of canals, repairs of offtake points, cross regulators, etc. These activities result in improved water management thus checking the problem of water-logging. Eight irrigation projects of the State were also taken up under the National Water Management Project (NWMP) with the objective of upgrading the system covering an area of 1.10 lakh hectare.

Steps have also been taken to formulate the Mahanadi Delta Development Plan by the State Government which envisages drainage improvement, flood control, canal modernisation, command area development, ground water development, research and development etc.

Moreover, ten projects of the State have been covered under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. Activities under the Programme like construction of field channels and field drains, land levelling and shaping, enforcement of warabandi, promotion of conjuctive use of surface and ground water, introduction of suitable cropping pattern, controlled irrigation at the farm level help in checking water-logging. To propagate scientific techniques of irrigation among farmers to check water-logging, adaptive trials, demonstrations and training have also been taken up under the Programme. During the 8th Plan, Rs. 17.17 crore has been released to the State Government for the Command Area Development Programme. Recently, a item relating to reclamation of water-logged areas has been included under the Programme under which Central assistance is admissible.

(c) and (d) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.

Revival of irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu

4267. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of irrigation projects in the country have not been properly maintained;

(b) whether a number of such projects in Tamil Nadu are required to be reviewed as very urgent basis;

(c) if so, the names and details of such projects; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for reviewing and properly maintaining projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a World Bank assisted Project namely Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidated Project which aims to improve the productivity and sustainability of Tamil Nadu Irrigation Sector by rehabilitation and modernisation of 43 existing irrigation structures. The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1143.30 crores and Rs. 13.18 crores has been spent upto 3/96. Expenditure incurred by the State Government during 1996-97 is Rs. 2.09 crores. The outlay proposed by the State Government for 1997-98 is Rs. 170 crores. The project is reviewed by the Central Water Commission on quarterly basis.